

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Uruguay

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the delegation of Uruguay for its comprehensive statement and national rapport.

The Netherlands welcomes Uruguay's participation in various international human rights treaty-monitoring bodies. We also value the efforts made after the first Universal Periodic Review in 2009 to maintain a dialogue with several committees on economic, social and cultural rights, on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance, and on civil and political rights.

The Netherlands also welcomes Uruguay's efforts to further enhance the protection and promotion of the human rights of its people, especially the rights of LGBT people and same-sex couples. We praise Uruguay for the adoption of the Equal Marriage Act which ensures that all people regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity have the opportunity to marry if they choose, thus contributing to a more equal society. It is important that this development is followed by awareness-raising programs to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends Uruguay:

1. to continue innovative education programs recognizing sexual diversity in order for children and others to learn that all human beings deserve equal respect; and to adopt a health policy that further enhances awareness on and sensibilization of sexual orientation and gender issues amongst health personnel,
2. to adopt measures to increase gender parity in political and public spheres and improve the participation of women in decision-making and public policy development.

Thank you, Mr. President.